

Holguin was discovered by Columbus. And millions of others since.



The first tourist in Holguin was a Christopher Columbus, who arrived in Gibara on October 27th, 1492. They say he called the island "The most beautiful land that human eyes have ever seen." More than 500 years later, the wonders of Holguín are no less dazzling.



Holguin province covers 9,300 square km with a population of one million. Holguin is Cuba's fourth largest province and the second most populated, exceeded only by the city of Havana. The province has rich mineral deposits in the mountains including one of the world's greatest reserves of nickel and cobalt.

Holguin also is home of the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, declared a bio-reserve by UNESCO and considered to be the most complete ecosystem in the insular Caribbean. While its forest shelters the Royal Woodpecker, the prehistoric Manatee swims its rivers. Cayo Saetia is another protected area with a pristine forest and virgin beach.

There is something for everyone, from baseball fans to amateur archaeologists, history buffs, nature lovers and even daredevils.

The spectacular beaches here are what mostly attracts visitors to Holguin, including the enclaves of Playa Esmeralda, Playa Pesquero, Guardalavaca, Yuraguanal and Don Lino. Not to mention pristine reefs and abundant marine life that provides excellent diving and snorkeling. Farther inland, rolling hills and rugged mountains provide a stunning landscape well worthy of exploration.

Since Holguin is only an hour cab ride from coastal locations like Guardalavaca, which offers skydiving and hang-gliding, nearby Bahía de Naranjo Nature Park and Parque Nacional Monumento Bariay, where another larger monument hailing Columbus' arrival awaits, are good places to start.

After swimming with the dolphins at Bahía de Naranjo's dolphinarium you might want to spend time deep-sea fishing, diving, snorkeling and exploring the Cuba's immaculate Atlantic reefs and colourful marine life. Perhaps you'll finish your day with a scrumptious fresh lobster or seafood dinner at a nearby restaurant.

The more historically inclined will find the Chorro de Maita Museum, just outside of Guardalavaca, fascinating. It houses the largest burial site of the Taíno tribe, the indigenous habitants who occupied the island for 10,000 years before Columbus. The museum also sits across from Aldea Taína, a replicated Taíno village replete with dwellings and exhibitions of native dance rituals.

Less than an hour drive from the resort areas is the once-mighty port of Gibara. Founded in 1817, Gibara is now a small rustic fishing village, a sleepy little hamlet that comes to life every April with its annual Festival Internacional del Cine Pobre.

Established in 1983 by Cuban filmmaker Humberto Solás, Cine Pobre features independent, self-financed works from all over the world.

The film fest also serves as an exciting prelude to the city of Holguin's own Las Romerías de Mayo, a religious celebration heralding the arrival of spring and a mix of indigenous and Catholic elements that birthed Cuban culture.



Held in early May, the annual five-day event showcases the best in local arts and culture, ranging from actors and visual artists to musicians, writers and dancers.



Whether you explore Loma de la Cruz, or the Hill of the Cross, or spend time in the actual city of Holguin, known as the City of Parks, admiring its colonial architecture, or visit Salto del Guayabo (Cuba's highest waterfall at 100 metres) or visit Birán (the birthplace of Fidel and Raúl Castro) you'll surely be welcomed with warm smiles.

Tours & Excursions:

- Visit to Naranjo's Bay and its aquarium. Swim with the dolphins
- Holguin city tour & visit to a cigar factory
- Chorro de Maita and a farmer's house
- Jeep safari into Cayo Saetia
- Catamaran cruises
- Day trips to other parts of the island such as Santiago de Cuba & Havana.

How can I get in touch or find out more?

Website: www.gocuba.ca or

www.cuba.travel

Email: info@gocuba.ca

Call: 416 362-0700

Please note, all information is subject to change.